

Portland, Oregon
January 5, 2008

RRR000719

EIS Office
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U. S. Department of Energy
1551 Hillshire Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada, 89195-7308

Gentlemen:

This letter concerns the proposal to turn Yucca Mountain into a nuclear waste repository.

1 [I urgently request that Yucca Mountain not be used as a nuclear waste repository—both because the site itself is physically truly unsuitable and because Yucca Mountain has great spiritual meaning for the Shoshone Indians.

Because nuclear waste has such a long radioactive life, posing danger to all living things around it, a geologically unstable site such as Yucca Mountain is specially unsuitable for long-time storage. All evidence points to an active magma pocket below the site, meaning that when the magma moves, quietly or explosively, to the surface the radioactive materials in the nuclear waste may well be spread over a considerable area. With the increasing population growth in Nevada such a spread may be of great danger to substantial human populations.] ... continued below

2 [The proposed transportation plans utilizing enormous standardized waste containers traveling over rail lines will pose danger to land and populations along the way because the rail lines throughout the United States have been seriously deteriorating over the years, and I know of no plans by public or private entities to restore to safe functioning over our rail system. A rail accident might endanger one or more of our large population centers through which the proposed transit system passes.]

3 [And transportation of nuclear waste almost entirely across the United States poses an ongoing security risk. It would be very difficult to protect these materials from terrorists as the shipments move on the rails or are sitting in a rail yard.]

... 1 [Furthermore, Yucca Mountain is sacred to the Shoshone Indians as an herb gathering site, for rituals, and as a part of their stories. It is essential that we respect the rights of these people who lived in the area long before the Europeans came to the area.

continued

Sincerely,



Avis Rana